

Proclamation 4880 of October 29, 1981

American Education Week, 1981

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Among the most precious gifts a child can receive is a good education. Historically, the primary responsibility for educating our youth has rested with parents. State and local educators stand to assist parents in achieving educational goals. The cooperative effort between parents and educators is the irreplaceable ingredient for American education.

In a free society, we are fortunate to have the right to oversee our children's education. The success of our educational system depends upon the exercise of this right by parents. It is thus fitting that mothers and fathers throughout the Nation should be encouraged to be involved with their local schools and to participate in supportive activities.

It is appropriate that the theme of this year's American Education Week is "American Education and You: Partners in Our Children's Future." Increased teamwork between school, home, church or synagogue, and the community cannot help but add to the quality of our children's education.

As a Nation, we are dedicated to excellence in education. It means a better life for our children as individuals, and it further secures the liberty which we cherish. As James Madison said, "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning November 15, 1981, as American Education Week.

I invite all Americans to form education partnerships in shaping our children's future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4881 of October 29, 1981

National Farm-City Week, 1981

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

American agriculture is a modern-day miracle. In the last 30 years, United States farmers have increased productivity by 50 percent. Now, fewer than

4 percent of our population provides our Nation's agricultural products—and enough more to feed millions of people overseas.

The trust, reliance, and interdependence of farms and cities is a basic strength of this great Nation. Farm and city people have long been partners in economic and social progress. Without farms to provide food and fiber, cities would be barren; without the products and services of cities, farms would be primitive.

A close partnership between farm and city people in the productive use of land, labor, and capital is paramount if our Nation is to continue to have an abundance of safe, wholesome food as well as an abundance of goods and services at reasonable prices.

To achieve a deeper appreciation of the contributions and cooperation of farms and cities, the Nation has set aside a week in November as National Farm-City Week. The theme is: Partners in Progress—Key to the Future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the period November 20 through November 26, 1981, as National Farm-City Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of October in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4882 of November 3, 1981

National Family Week

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The family is the basic unit of our society, the heart of our free democracy. It provides love, acceptance, guidance, support, and instruction to the individual. Community values and goals that give America strength also take root in the home. In times of change and challenge, families keep safe our cultural heritage and reinforce our spiritual foundation.

As the mainstay of our national life, family life must be preserved. When a family needs external assistance to help it to perform its unique role, this assistance should not interfere with the family's fundamental responsibilities and prerogatives. Rather, aid should be supportive and purposeful in strengthening the family's stability, self-sufficiency and permanence.

National Family Week is a time to be thankful for the family as a national heritage and resource. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the concept of the family—a concept that must withstand the trends of lifestyle and legislation. Let us pledge that our institutions and policies will be shaped to enhance an environment in which families can strengthen their ties and best exercise their beliefs, authority, and resourcefulness. And let us make our pledge mindful that we do so not only on behalf of individual family members, but for America.